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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,879	07/07/2003	Jason Gallovich	13246-1US JA/AD/mb	6994
20988	7590	05/05/2005	EXAMINER	
OGILVY RENAULT LLP 1981 MCGILL COLLEGE AVENUE SUITE 1600 MONTREAL, QC H3A2Y3 CANADA			BLOUNT, ERIC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2636	

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,879

Applicant(s)

GALLOVICH, JASON

Examiner

Eric M. Blount

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 and 42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 42 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9 and 11-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 8 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claims 1-33 and 42** are currently pending. Claim 42 is new. Claims 1 and 21 are currently amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 9, and 11-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-12, 16-25, and 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price R-W et al [U.S. Patent No. 6052068] referred to from here on as Price, in view of Maloney [U.S. Patent No. 6427913], and in further view of Guthrie et al [U.S. Patent No. 5745037].

As for **claims 1, 16, 19, 21 and 29**, Price discloses a method for locating stolen vehicles and preventing vehicle theft that comprises providing each vehicle with a plurality of signal emitting devices each of the signal emitting devices being independent of the vehicle's power source (column 4, line 45 and column 5, lines 5-9). Each vehicle is registered in a central database (column 4, lines 52-58). Readers are placed for

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receiving signals from the plurality of signal emitting devices at a plurality of locations in a geographical area (column 4, lines 40-44). The reader can be connected to a network having a central location such that all information being processed by the reader is transferred to and accessible by the central location (column 4, lines 1-37 and Figure 1). Price shows a two-way communication between the reader and a central location. The information being processed from the readers can be compared with information in the central location to identify vehicles, which have been stolen (column 4, lines 11-20). Price teaches that a central database may store several types of information including vehicle registration information (column 4, lines 15-20 and 52-60). Price does not specifically disclose that the plurality of signal emitting devices are camouflaged among various parts of the vehicles or that signal emitting devices initiate communication with readers.

In an analogous art, Maloney discloses that a plurality of signal emitting devices may be attached to a vehicle at various locations that are not obvious to the casual user (column 7, lines 47-57). The indication that the plurality of signal emitting devices are located at various non-obvious positions, to the viewer, reasonably appears meet the limitation requiring that the signal emitting devices be camouflaged among the vehicle's various parts, since Maloney discloses that the signal emitting devices may be placed in the bumpers, wheel wells, or tires, or essentially hidden (i.e. camouflaged) in plain sight. Maloney also discloses that a plurality of readers may be placed at a plurality of locations for receiving signals emitted by signal emitting devices (Figure 1). Maloney discloses that the tags used in the invention may be active or passive tags (column 6,

lines 7-29). Maloney does not specifically disclose that the tags may initiate communication with readers.

Guthrie teaches a method for monitoring and tracking tags wherein active tags initiate communication with readers (column 2, lines 20-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to combine the teachings of Maloney and Price because a combination of the two would result in a vehicle theft prevention device which would deter theft by providing several vehicle identification means which would be difficult for a criminal to locate and remove. Further, it was well known in the art at the time of the invention by applicant for RFID systems to include active or passive tags depending on what type of environment the tags would be used in. It would have been obvious to modify the active tag taught by Maloney to initiate communication with a reader. This modification would make the active tag more energy efficient (column 2, lines 40-58).

As for **claim 2**, Price teaches that at least one of the signal emitting devices will emit in response to a request from at least one of the readers and the network (column 3, lines 37-42).

As for **claims 3 and 22**, Maloney discloses in column 14, lines 55-58 that the RF tags in the invention may operate at different frequencies.

Regarding **claims 4 and 23**, Price discloses that the readers are capable of processing and filtering strong and weak signals (column 3, lines 45-50). It is obvious that if the readers are capable of filtering and distinguishing between strong and weak signals that the signal emitting devices could operate at varying frequencies. Varying

the signal strength of the signal emitting devices can be viewed as a design choice by the user just as variances in frequency and time.

As for **claims 5 and 24**, Maloney discloses a plurality of signal emitting devices that transmit at different times (column 13, lines 52-67). Signal emitting devices are positioned on a vehicle in a spaced apart manner, as they come within the range of a reader, each tag transmits data.

As for **claims 6 and 25**, Price discloses that the plurality of signal emitting devices includes a number of functional and a number of non-functional devices (column 3, lines 33-45). Price discloses that a reader can communicate with the signal emitting devices and only signal emitting devices which receive valid messages are functional.

Regarding **claim 9**, the readers disclosed by Price may be fixed at specific locations (column 4, lines 40-44).

As for **claims 11 and 27**, Maloney teaches that fixed readers are located in an enclosed area where vehicles regularly circulate (Figures 2-4).

As for **claims 12 and 28**, Price discloses that law enforcement agencies and other governmental agencies use readers to query the signal emitting devices for vehicle information. It is obvious that the enforcement agencies would have certified personnel install the readers to ensure that the readers functioned properly. Certified installation of equipment was well known in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant. This can be likened to home satellite television installation. A homeowner

will use the satellite for personal use but a certified technician installs the equipment to make sure that it function properly.

As for **claims 17 and 32**, both Price and Maloney teach the use of a plurality of signal emitting devices. Maloney discloses that these devices can be located at various regions about the vehicle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to provide signal emitting devices at nearly all major body parts of a vehicle because providing more tags on the body of the vehicle would increase the likelihood that a thief would be unable to disable/dislodge all of the signal emitting devices.

As for **claim 18**, Price teaches that the readers interrogate the signal emitting devices. It is obvious that if readers are placed correctly that the signal emitting devices will emit signals in accord with the placement of the readers. If the readers are placed a distance of approximately one hour apart the signal emitting devices will emit a signal at least once an hour. Guthrie teaches a system wherein signal emitters emit signals at programmed time interval (column 2, lines 40-55).

Regarding **claim 20**, as noted above in the discussion of claim 1, Maloney discloses that signal emitting devices are to be placed in locations on the vehicle that would make them hard to remove. Obviously, locating and removing the signal emitting devices from the vehicle would damage a vehicle if not removed correctly.

As for **claims 30 and 31**, Price teaches a database that is accessible by various agencies for consultation (column 3, lines 52-67). It would be obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art that agencies be able to update the database when new events occur. This would ensure that the database provided reliable and up-to-date information.

As for **claim 33**, Price teaches that the network may be a wireless network (column 4, lines 28-37).

5. Claims 13-15 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Maloney, in further view of Guthrie, as applied to claims above, and in even further view of Thomas et al [U.S. Patent No. 6335679].

Regarding **claim 13**, neither Price, Maloney, nor Guthrie teach an insurance company providing incentives. Thomas discloses that insurance companies are known to provide insurance incentives to customers who equip their vehicles with security devices (column 1, lines 28-32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant that insurance companies would provide incentives to vehicle owners who used signal-emitting devices as a part of a security system. This would have been obvious because it was well known in the art that insurance companies make these types of offers to reduce the risk that a vehicle owner's car be burglarized. Further, this would be advantageous to insurance companies and the vehicle owner because they would be able to recover the vehicle.

As for **claims 14 and 26**, Maloney teaches a system that is used to detect zone transitions. This system can be used in parking lots, servicing stations, fueling stations, etc. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the system could be used

at a scrap yard because it is an enclosed area similar to the environments that Maloney uses as examples.

As for **claim 15**, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a reader be certified. Please see, claim 12 above.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. **Claims 7, 8, and 10** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it appears that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. **Claim 42** is allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to sufficiently describe or suggest a method for locating a stolen vehicle wherein a plurality signal emitting devices are camouflaged among various parts of a vehicle and initiate communication with a plurality of readers connected to a network and wherein the readers are fixed at a specific location and periodically verify the fixed location to ensure that the readers have not been moved.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

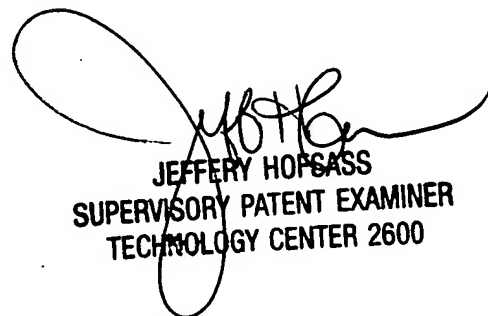
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Blount whose telephone number is (571) 272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric M. Blount
Examiner
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